

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2086

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SUBJECT : U.S. PARTICIPATION ISRAEL BASKETBALL TOURNMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 1697; STATE 64802

1. WE HAVE HAD FURTHER TALKS WITH ADIN TALBAR, ASST DIRGEN OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL SPORT FEDERATION, ABOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ISRAEL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT THIS AUGUST. ISRAELIS ARE MOST DESIROUS OF GETTING NORTH CAROLINA STATE FOR TOURNAMENT. HE SAID THEY WILL PAY EXPENSES OF TEAM WHILE IN ISRAEL AND, IF N.C. STATE AGREES TO COME, ISRAEL WILL PAY "MAJOR PART AND POSSIBLY ALL" OF TRAVEL COSTS. AS IN CASE OF KENTUCKY TEAM IN 1966, MONEY FOR TRAVEL WOULD BE RAISED BY MEANS OF POST-TOURNAMENT GAME BETWEEN N.C. STATE AND A SELECTED ALL-ISRAEL TEAM. HE SAID PARTICIPATION NOW ASSURED FROM CANADA, WEST GERMANY, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND AND HONG KONG; BRAZIL AND TAIWAN ARE LIKELY PARTICIPANTS.

2. AS STATED IN REFTEL, STRONG U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THIS TOURNAMENT WILL BE OF MAJOR PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE. THIS IS A BASKETBALL COUNTRY, A FACT ADOLPH RUPP CAN ATTEST TO SINCE HIS 1966 TEAM WAS DEFEATED BY ALL-ISRAEL TEAM. N.C. STATE WOULD BE A GREAT DRAWING CARD AND, HOPEFULLY, COACH SLOAN CAN BE PERSUADED TO PERMIT HIS TEAM TO PARTICIPATE. IF CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF PLAYERS IS A FACTOR, RECORD SHOWS THAT ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CAN BE COUNTED ON TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SECURITY FOR VISITORS.

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3. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANOTHER APPROACH TO COACH

SLOAN STRESSING PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM HIS TEAM'S PARTICIPATION AND MAKING POINT ABOUT SECURITY. IF N.C. STATE REFUSES TO RECONSIDER, WE WOULD HOPE THAT EITHER UCLA OR MARYLAND COULD BE PERSUADED TO PARTICIPATE. WHILE TALBAR WAS THINKING OF N.C. STATE WHEN SPEAKING OF TRAVEL EXPENSES (PARA ONE ABOVE), WE BELIEVE SUCCESSFUL POST-TOURNAMENT GAME COULD ALSO BE ARRANGED FOR TOP-LEVEL TEAM SUCH AS UCLA OR MARYLAND.
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